

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, on May 18, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 273–275. Had I been present, I would have voted: rollcall vote No. 273, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 2288, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Improvement Act, “nay”; rollcall vote No. 274, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 4614, Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act, “aye”; and rollcall vote No. 275, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 1327, Honoring the life, achievements, and contributions of Floyd Dominy, “aye.”

SUSPEND MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FUNDING FOR MOROCCO

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the following letter I sent to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking that the Millennium Challenge Corporation compact with Morocco be suspended in light of Morocco's deportation of Americans and other foreign nationals without due process.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2010.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write today to express my grave concern regarding the recent deportation of approximately 40 American citizens from Morocco without due process, which I believe calls into question the continuance of Morocco's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) funding.

In September 2008, the clock started for the official five-year period for project implementation under the MCC Compact with Morocco. The United States has pledged \$697.5 million in assistance to the Kingdom of Morocco through this Compact. As a precondition to receiving MCC funds, the government of Morocco was evaluated on 17 key indicators of eligibility, six of which fall under the category of “ruling justly.” I submit, however, that these recent events raise valid questions regarding the Moroccan government's willingness to abide by the principles outlined in the MCC indicators.

In early March, the Moroccan government deported approximately 40 U.S. citizens and scores of other foreign nationals for allegedly proselytizing, which is against Moroccan law. However, authorities presented no evidence or explanation of the proselytizing allegations. Among the individuals who were deported or denied reentry were businessmen, educators, and humanitarian and social workers. Many of these individuals have resided in Morocco for over a decade in full compliance with Moroccan law.

Additionally, those deported were forced to leave the country within two hours of being questioned by authorities, leaving all their belongings behind. The manner in which these expulsions were carried out and the

Moroccan government's refusal to grant those affected with a hearing flies in the face of the principles of due process. Furthermore, the manner in which authorities expelled these individuals violates not only the general principles of international law but Moroccan law, as well.

The mandate of the MCC is based on the assumption that “aid is most effective when it reinforces good governance.” Rather than making strides toward accountable and democratic governance since receiving the MCC grant, Morocco has regressed. Freedom House's annual Freedom in the World Report noted backsliding in Morocco “due to the increased concentration of power in the hands of political elites aligned with the monarchy” over the course of the last year.

At a time when the United States owes more in debts and commitments than the total combined net worth of all Americans, it is unacceptable to provide \$697.5 million in taxpayer dollars to a nation which blatantly disregards the rights of American citizens residing in Morocco and forcibly expels American citizens without due process of law.

The decision to suspend a MCC Compact due to a significant deterioration in good governance is not unprecedented. At my urging, the Board chose to suspend the MCC Compact with Nicaragua due to the violence and blatant thuggery exhibited by the regime of President Daniel Ortega surrounding the November 2008 elections.

The United States must send a message to the Moroccan government that it is unacceptable to expel American citizens without due process under the law. I ask that you withhold Morocco's MCC funding until the government of Morocco demonstrates that it is willing to follow its own laws thus ensure that those expelled receive a fair trial and work toward a mutually acceptable solution to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on roll call no. 256, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, during the week of May 10, 2010, I was not in Washington, DC because I was surveying extensive damage that occurred in my Congressional District due to several tornadoes on May 10, 2010.

My vote explanations for the week are as follows:

On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 256, 257, and 258. Had I been

present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 256: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1294); rollcall vote No. 257: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1328); rollcall vote No. 258: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1299).

On Wednesday, May 12, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, and 266. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 259: “no” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1344—the Rule for H.R. 5116); rollcall vote No. 260: “aye” (On agreeing to H.R. 5014); rollcall vote No. 261: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Con. Res. 268); rollcall vote No. 262: “aye” (On agreeing to Gordon (TN): Manager's Amendment No. 1); rollcall vote No. 263: “aye” (On agreeing to Hall (TX): Amendment No. 6); rollcall vote No. 264: “no” (On agreeing to Markey (MA): Amendment No. 10); rollcall vote No. 265: “no” (On agreeing to Miller (CA): Amendment No. 12); rollcall vote No. 266: “aye” (On agreeing to Reyes (TX): Amendment No. 13).

On Thursday, May 13, 2010, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, and 273. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall vote No. 267: “no” (On agreeing to Boccieri (OH): Amendment No. 34); rollcall vote No. 268: “aye” (On agreeing to Halvorson Amendment No. 38); rollcall vote No. 269: “aye” (On agreeing to Quigley (IL): Amendment No. 50); rollcall vote No. 270: “aye” (On agreeing to the Motion to Recommit to H.R. 5116); rollcall vote No. 271: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1338); rollcall vote No. 272: “aye” (On agreeing to H. Res. 1337).

TRIBUTE TO DONALD DYE

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Donald Dye, English teacher at Belmont-Klemme Junior and Senior High School, on being named one of five finalists for a Top Teacher Search award sponsored by the “Live with Regis and Kelly” television show.

Mr. Dye is an English teacher and has been teaching at Belmont-Klemme since 1973. He is a native of Oskaloosa, Iowa and briefly taught in New Providence, Iowa before arriving at Belmont-Klemme. Mr. Dye was nominated by Jim and Dianna Sunkten of Belmont and Diane and Curt Stadlander of Goodell, Iowa. They submitted a letter describing Mr. Dye's positive impact on the lives of the youth he teaches.

Mr. Dye will be in New York City during the week of May 17th for the taping of the “Live with Regis and Kelly” television show. Each day of the week they will be featuring the top five finalists. This certainly is an exciting occasion to honor Mr. Dye for his hard work and dedication to opening the doors of opportunity to the students he reaches each day in the classroom.

I am honored to represent Donald Dye in the United States Congress, and I wish him the best of luck in New York City during Live with Regis and Kelly's Top Teacher Week. I also wish Mr. Dye the very best as he continues to serve as a mentor and role model to